REMARKS

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,463,974 to Hellweg et al. in view of United States Patent No. 2,384,402 to Schubert et al. Applicant has cancelled Claim 2, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to this claim. However, with respect to Claims 1 and 3-5, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have modified the Hellweg et al. reference in light of the Schubert et al. reference in the manner suggested by the Examiner. As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner, the Hellweg et al. reference fails to disclose the claimed notches in the bent edges of the annular shell. *See* January 5, 2009 Final Office Action, page 2, lines 20-21. Accordingly, the Examiner relied upon the Schubert et al. reference for this feature by stating that the Schubert et al. reference shows the use of notches that are "arranged at the marginal end portions of a similar flanged, metal component in order to prevent wrinkling and the buildup of stresses." *See* January 5, 2009 Final Office Action, page 2, lines 23-25.

In response, Applicant respectfully submits that the Schubert et al. reference does not teach using notches for preventing wrinkling and eliminating compressive strains. Instead, the Schubert et al. reference teaches preventing wrinkling and eliminating compressive strains through the use of dished areas (such as dished areas 20 of Figure III of Schubert et al.). For example, Column 2 (lines 11-14) of Schubert et al. states: "The method of this invention may be practiced by dishing the web or plane of

the part adjacent the flange, in order to eliminate compressive strains in the flange." Thus, assuming *arguendo* that one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Hellweg et al. in view of Schubert et al., they would have added dished portions for eliminating wrinkling and compressive strains, as taught by Hellweg et al., and would not have added notches. Accordingly, the proposed combination lacks one of the claimed features (the "plurality of notches"). Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of Claims 1 and 3-5 be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicant also respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of Claims 1 and 3-5 be withdrawn because the proposed combination does not include the claimed bent ends that "only extend in an axial direction," as defined in amended independent Claim 1. Examples of such bent ends that extend only in the axial direction are represented by bent ends 7 of Applicant's Figures 2 and 3.

In contrast, the ends of the device of the Hellweg et al. reference include components that extend in the radial direction, as represented by arched positive profiles 21 and 22 of Figures 1 and 2 of the Hellweg et al. reference. Further, the Schubert et al reference also includes ends with components that extend in two directions that are orthogonal to each other, as shown in Figure III of Shubert et al. Such extensions in different directions that are orthogonal to each other cannot be considered as only extending in a single direction (i.e., "only extend[ing] in an axial direction"). Thus for at least this additional reason, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 3-5.

Finally, Applicant also respectfully submits that the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed ranges of the ratios Ln/Lp and Wn/Ws, as now defined in independent Claim 1. As described in paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the present Specification, the use of such parameters allows a drawing process to be performed without generating cracks and wrinkles. In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Hellweg et al. nor Schubert et al. disclose or suggest such parameters. Further, as mentioned above, the Schubert et al. reference discloses dishing the edges to eliminate wrinkles and strains, and not notching. Accordingly, there is no suggestion of optimizing the claimed ratios of the notches for eliminating wrinkling because Schubert et al. relies upon a different feature (dishing) for eliminating wrinkles. Thus, for this reason also, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 3-5.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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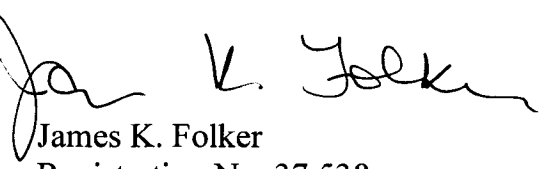
By 

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April 6, 2009

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